

# Somerville Historic Preservation Commission

## Current Staff and Board Members

### Somerville Historic Preservation Commission Staff

**J. Brandon Wilson:** Executive Director since 2000. She was Chairman of the Study Committee that spurred the adoption of a Local Historic Districts Ordinance in 1985 and established the Historic Preservation Commission shortly thereafter.

**Kristi Chase:** Preservation Planner since 2000, and resident of a designated Local Historic District house that she and her partner have been actively restoring for many years, and for which they won a Preservation Award in 1996.

**Katherine Montgomery:** Preservation Intern since January 2006. Graduated from college two years ago and is desperately searching for a historic property that she can afford and can restore to its full original glory.

### Somerville Historic Preservation Commission Members

**Michael Payne:** Chairman of the SHPC, Michael is an architect and a member of the American Institute of Architects, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Architectural Engineering Institute, and the Boston Society of Architects and their Historic Resources Committee. Michael has a wealth of knowledge in the preservation field and works hard at helping people realize their home improvement goals. He has been a member of the SHPC since 1997 and Chairman for most of those years.

**Dick Bauer:** Vice-Chair of the SHPC, Dick is an attorney and has a master's degree in city planning. He is also Co-President of the Greater Boston Legal Services Attorney's Union, Vice-Chair of the Jewish Labor Committee, Co-Chair of the Kahal B'Raira Social Action Committee, as well as a member of the Somerville Living Wage Committee, the Temple B'Nai Brith Social Action Committee, the Workmen's Circle Worker, and the Immigrant Rights Committee. He and his wife received a Director's Award in 2006 for outstanding work on their house and he joined the SHPC in 2003.

**John Bunzick:** John is an experienced contractor who has worked with several architectural firms over many years. John has lent his architectural and technical expertise to the Commission since he became a member in 1998.

**Denis (D.J.) Chagnon:** D.J. is a landscape architect at a local firm. He and his new wife are house hunting and are hoping to find an affordable historic home in Somerville. D.J. also serves on the Ward II Democratic Committee and has been a member of the SHPC since 2005.

**O. Susan Fontano:** Susan is a small business owner of two firms in Lexington, Nefertiti Hair Salon and Up, Up and Away Balloons. She has resided in Somerville all of her life, in an older home that her family has been restoring over many years, earning them a Director's Award in 1998. She is also the Chair of the Ward I Beautification Committee, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, the East Broadway Main Streets Program and the Mt. Vernon Street Association. Susan has been a very active member of the SHPC since 1998.

**Abby Freedman:** Abby is an independent filmmaker and community videographer. She is currently a member of ArtsUnion's Street Architecture Committee for Union Square, was formerly President of the

Board for Somerville Community Access Television (SCAT), and previously served on the City's Cable Advisory Commission. Abby and her husband have been restoring their house for 23 years and through her efforts the Aldersey-Summit Local Historic District was greatly expanded in 2003. She has been a SHPC Member since 2005.

**Stephen A. Glines:** Stephen is an attorney in private practice with an office in Somerville. He is Supervising Attorney for the Shelter Legal Services Foundation. He is also a member of the Middlesex County Bar Association Focus Group on Court Reform, and he participates in the Lawyer of the Day Program at Middlesex Family and Probate Court. Steve has been a member of the SHPC since June of 2006.

**David Guss:** David is a Professor of Anthropology at Tufts University. He has served on many University committees including the Development Committee at Tufts. He was the curator of a yearlong exhibit in 2003-04 about the Lost Theatres of Somerville, a visual and oral history of neighborhood picture palaces. David has been on the SHPC since 2001.

**Barbara Mangum:** Barbara is an art conservator and architectural historian, and was formerly the Chief Conservator for the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. She is the principal of a private practice, Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation LLC. Barbara is also the founder and current President of Historic Somerville, Inc., a non-profit organization that sponsors educational programs about local history and raises funds for preservation projects in Somerville. She has been a member of the SHPC since 2001.

**Jeffrey Meese:** Jeff is an architect in private practice locally, with a specialty in historic properties. He received a Preservation Award in 2003 for superior restoration of his house, the ca. 1808 Cooper-Davenport Tavern that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is also a designated Local Historic District in Somerville. He has been a member of the SHPC since 2005.

**Susan Rabinowitz:** Susan is a grants writer with a local non-profit. She is a past board member of the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) and of the Friends of Hoyt Sullivan Playground, and is a former Neighborhood Watch Leader. She resides in a multiple building Local Historic District that won a Preservation Award in 2003. She is currently a member of Temple B'nai Brith and of the Somerville Old House Organization (SOHO). Susan has lived in Somerville for over 3 decades and has been serving on the SHPC since 2002.

**Derick Snare:** Derick is an architect in private practice in Somerville. He and his wife live in a Local Historic District designated house that they have been lovingly restoring for over ten years. Derick works closely with the Somerville High School CAD Program providing technical assistance and guidance as the students create architectural drawings each year as part of the Commission's Annual Award Program. Derick has been an active member of the SHPC since 2002.

**Brad Stearns:** Brad is a general contractor who practices throughout the New England area, with a specialty in residential rehabilitation work. He has also been working on his own Somerville home for more years than he can recall. Brad is the founder of the Somerville Garden Club, and remains an avid gardener. Brad joined the SHPC in 2005.

**Cheryl Vanderbilt:** Cheryl is a real estate agent that serves Somerville and the wider Boston area. She is particularly keen on showcasing and marketing historic houses, especially those that have been restored to their natural beauty. She is past President of the Somerville Rotary Club, and is a current active member. Cheryl joined the SHPC in 2005.